

Critique of ACS/I Study on Field

Cooperation in Publications Procurement

1. The ACS/I study is correct in stating as facts that a) procurement of publications in the field demands selectivity, in view of the b) variety and extent of publication sources to be covered as well as the c) limitations faced by collectors due to insufficient copies available, restrictions imposed on internal and external dissemination and cost factors. Such facts particularly apply to personnel engaged in publications procurement in the Soviet Orbit areas, although aspects of some or all of these facts pertain in general to nearly all areas.

2. The study, however, is believed inaccurate in assuming that the following are equally factual, namely:

a. That the problem of providing exhaustive, continuous procurement of foreign publications for intelligence purposes is to be solved or appreciably lessened through establishing or increasing cooperation among field collection arms engaged in such work; and

b. that the importance of open publications as a source of intelligence information is universally recognized.

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3. From conversations with procurement personnel in Washington returned for reassignment and for debriefing, and from personal observations of the writer in the field, it is felt that at Moscow, Berlin, Paris, Hong Kong, [REDACTED] New Delhi and [REDACTED] the maximum effort that can be made for 25X6A cooperation among field collectors is currently in force. To the degree that the PPO's are kept informed by other procurement personnel of the desires of the latter in the wide scope of materials covered by the term publications, there has been initiated a variety of programs to develop and foster a mutual exchange of know-how and procurement ability among field collectors. In the writer's opinion, most of the initiative and resourcefulness in this regard have been developed by the PPO's. A few examples may serve to illustrate this. In [REDACTED] an ad-hoc Publications Procurement Coordination Committee was set up in 1955 by the then acting Map and Publications Procurement Officer, who served as chairman. The defense participants were not composed of the attaches but of representatives of G-2/AFPE, 6002nd AISG/FEEF, 29th Engineers, and the 500th MISG. Representation was also made by the local [REDACTED] The defense representatives came from 25X9A2 field military organizations maintaining large publications procurement and exploitation activities in support of their respective research components. As such, they were both knowledgeable of and concerned with various [REDACTED] and other publications in [REDACTED] The service attaches in [REDACTED] on the other hand, were primarily concerned with providing the ambassador with military colors for diplomatic purposes, and were neither knowledgeable of or interested in overt publications or the sources of same.

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In Hong Kong, the procurement of Chinese mainland publications for the services is now coordinated by the PPO there. A very fine example of field cooperation and coordination is currently in operation. In Moscow, the PPO has primarily had contact with the enlisted personnel of the service arms who do in actuality the basic procurement at book stores and at other outlets and who, like the PPO, process the publications obtained and are thus cognizant of critical gaps in procurement. The extent to which the attaches or assistant attaches have sought out the guidance or the assistance of the PPO has been slight. The PPO, Berlin, who is also responsible for procurement in other parts of Germany, has for some time assisted the senior ATLO at Wiesbaden, Major Kudravitz, in acquiring a wide variety of Orbit publications available to her in the Soviet Sector of Berlin and in other parts of the Sovzone. In addition, she has a very large volume of business for the Army and Navy installations at Berlin and Frankfurt, as well as Bonn. In Paris, the PPO has for some ten years served as an ad-hoc coordinator and source of information, guidance and assistance to all service and non service elements in the Embassy and other U. S. installations there. His program of cooperation is so wide and extensive that it should be treated separately. In New Delhi, the PPO, in addition to assisting the Army attache in procuring maps, has developed exchanges with Indian governmental and non-governmental sources in which the service attaches' wants are represented. At London, the PPO has been in operation less than nine months. As of November 1956, she had introduced herself to the service attaches and informed them of her mission in the Embassy and offered her services to them. She was informed that should the need arise, they would seek her out.

4. The fact that all field operations, as well as all Washington operations, concerned with the collection and evaluation of intelligence, do not recognize the importance of open publications as a primary source is evident from the meager contributions of money and personnel provided for its acquisition. It is true that more attention is paid to it than ten or in five years ago, but its universal recognition as a basic source is still to be achieved.

5. The CERP program is not considered apropos to this study, in view of the fact that it is outside the intelligence program, does not pertain to the Soviet Orbit areas, and is to be construed as the routine collection of readily-available periodicals.

6. In conclusion, field cooperation among publications collectors is desirable, and increased field cooperation is even more advantageous. It itself, however, is no panacea for all publications procurement problems and is not to be achieved in practice when a) field limitations of personnel in many key posts are such that the opportunities to establish ad-hoc procurement bodies are in fact luxuries; b) the personnel engaged in publications procurement are working under differing sets of rules, policies and philosophies which reflect their headquarters' rules, policies and philosophies; and c) the authority in Washington to provide additional manpower, and to unify into one code of rules and procedures the various ones now in operation, namely, the Procurement Subcommittee of the Advisory

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Committee on Foreign Language Publications, is not utilizing its authority. Directives already in the field on publications procurement do not reflect the NSCID 16 authority, and until that is accomplished, the field can not be expected to make up for Washington's lack of coordinated authority.